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773.5-MSP/7-1057

COPY NO. SERIES A

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

15
DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

July 10, 1957
DATE

REF :

This document consists of 3 pages
No. 1 of 7 copies, Series A

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	REC'D 7/26		

SUBJECT: Prime Minister's Criticism of LARC Programs

On June 21, during a conversation with the Ambassador, the Libyan Prime Minister, 'Abdul Majid Kuubar, voiced strong criticism of the Libyan American Reconstruction Commission's programs with particular reference to slowness in implementing projects once these were agreed upon and funded and to failure to initiate two specific construction projects in the Fezzan.

On June 24, during a subsequent meeting with the Prime Minister, the Ambassador touched upon the Prime Minister's previous comments and presented Mr. Jack Walker, USOM representative in the Fezzan, who gave a detailed review of reasons for delay in specific LARC projects in the Fezzan. The Ambassador also suggested that the Prime Minister convene a special meeting of LARC at which he might hear a full review of LARC accomplishments to date. To this, the Prime Minister agreed. A memorandum of conversation covering this aspect of the discussion is transmitted as first enclosure to this despatch.

The Prime Minister convened a meeting of those members of LARC who were present in Tripoli on June 29 and, with this group, reviewed LARC accomplishments. The Prime Minister indicated that his remarks to the Ambassador had been "misinterpreted", that he was not questioning LARC accomplishments but only voicing minor criticism of its operating methods. The Prime Minister, apparently was favorably impressed by the review of LARC procedures and has subsequently remarked that LARC must see that information as to what it is doing is made known to the government and general public alike. A memorandum covering this latter meeting is transmitted as second enclosure.

Comment: The Embassy, LARC and USOM/L, taking the Prime Minister at his word, have under preparation material concerning activities not only of LARC but of the Libyan-American Joint Services. These will be in Arabic and will be released as documents of Libyan agencies. The extent to which the Government will participate in distribution of these pamphlets will be an excellent indication of the Kuubar Government's willingness to give appropriate public recognition to the scope and accomplishments of the U.S. assistance programs.

For the Ambassador

Roger P. Davies
Counselor of Embassy,

Encl: 1. Memo of Conversation June 24, 1957
2. Memo of Conversation June 29, 1957

RPDavies/SDuncan-Peters:rjt

CC: Benghazi REPORTER

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REVIEWED BY G.M. Roff DATE May 6, 1982

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773.5 MSP/7-1057

SECRET/E

June 24, 1957

Memorandum of Conversation

Participants: The Honorable John L. Tappin, American Ambassador, Tripoli, Libya.
His Excellency Abdul Majid Kubaar, Prime Minister, Libya.
Mr. Walid Abu Kudhra, Embassy's Arabic Interpreter.
Mr. Jack Walker, USOM Representative in the Fezzan

Subject: LARC Programs.

During a long conversation covering many topics, the Ambassador opened the discussion concerning LARC programs by reviewing in detail the manner in which LARC had come into being, its composition and its function. He stated that he was making this oral review for the Prime Minister because of the latter's question at a previous meeting. He reminded the Prime Minister that LARC is a legal agency of the Libyan Government and that the Libyan Permanent Under Secretary of Finance is its Chairman. He recommended strongly to the Prime Minister that the latter convene as soon as possible a special meeting of LARC at which the Prime Minister and the Ambassador might hear a full review of LARC accomplishments to date. To this suggestion the Prime Minister readily agreed.

The Ambassador and the Prime Minister then discussed at length the desirability of making known to the Libyan public the accomplishments of LARC. It was agreed that the LARC Chairman would be directed to assemble for public consumption a full but simple report of progress made by LARC during its history. Ambassador Tappin volunteered the assistance of American technicians of the U.S. Operations Mission in the preparation of such a report, but emphasized that it basically must be prepared by Libyans and directed at Libyans.

At the Prime Minister's request Mr. Walker then gave a detailed review of facts which had delayed the initiation of specific LARC projects in the Fezzan. This recital clearly indicated that there was considerable heel-dragging by individual members of the various Nazirates of the Fezzan concerned with LARC projects.

The Prime Minister closed discussion of this topic by telling Mr. Walker that he should never hesitate to inform him (the Prime Minister) when he encountered local obstructionism. The Ambassador pointed out that Mr. Walker's channel for reporting deliberate obstructionism was through the Director of USOM, Mr. Marcus J. Gordon. The latter would always inform the Federal Government through the LARC Chairman. To this the Prime Minister nodded assent.

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Page 1 of
Encl. No. 2
Disp. No. 15
From Tripoli

June 29, 1957

Memorandum of Conversation

Participants: His Excellency Abdul Majid KUBAAR, Prime Minister, Libya
Ess. Abdullah al-Razaq SHAGLUF, Permanent Under-Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Libya
Mr. Marcus J. GORDON, Director, USOM/L
Mr. Erwin C. HANNUM, Executive Director, LARC
Mr. Stephen DUNCAN-PETERS, American Embassy Representative to LARC

Subject: LARC Programs

The Prime Minister opened the discussion with series of observations on the difficulties of conducting friendly conservations through the medium of interpreters as faulty translations sometimes resulted in inadvertent misinterpretations. He specifically referred to an obvious error of this nature that occurred on June 24 when in the course of a discussion with the Ambassador of the United States some of his minor criticisms of the LARC accomplishments were mistranslated and, consequently, distorted.

The Prime Minister then continued at length on the long technical delays that apparently retarded the LARC programs and asked for details on some specific projects, such as the coast road to Benghazi, the telecommunications system and others.

Messrs. Hannum and Gordon gave the Prime Minister the detailed account he requested. They pointed out that LARC had already allocated £L 7 million of the £L 9 million entrusted to it and stressed the importance of subjecting each project to technical examination and review. Particular emphasis was placed on the fact that these reviews frequently effected important economies and insured the maximum utilization of the money devoted to Libya's welfare. Mr. Hannum then concentrated on the specific projects referred to by the Prime Minister and gave a comprehensive account of the progress effected and the problems encountered and solved.

The Prime Minister closed the discussion by expressing his satisfaction over the information received which would enable him to reply to those who criticize the American contributions to Libya generally and the LARC program in particular.

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